1661

Reaſons for making the Rivers of Stower *and* Salwerpe *Navigable, ſome of them being as an Anſwer to the Gentlemen of* Shropſhires *Objections.*

Firſt, It will be of great Publique advantage, the Country about *Stowerbridge* being furniſhed with an inexhauſtible quantity of Coales enough to ſerve all the adjacent Counties, and of a far better ſort then any other in thoſe Parts, much Iron ware of all ſorts, Glaſſe and Earthen ware, and up and down thoſe Parts is carryed Lead, Salt, Apples, Peares, Cider, Perry, Lime, &c. which by theſe Rivers may be conveyed at far cheaper rates then by Land-carriage (although the wayes be in ſome Parts good) into the River of *Severne*, and ſo into all the Countryes adjoyning, to the great increaſe of Trading in thoſe Parts.

2. It will enlarge the Coale-market, for *Shropſhire* pits are not ſufficient to ſupply the Countryes already furniſhed by water, for many times Carts which come out of *Oxfordſhire* and *Warwickſhire* for Coales to *Tewkesbury* are forced to return empty; beſides, in a dry Summer the Barges cannot come down from *Shropſhire* pits in 20. weeks time, the water being ſo ſhallow, and then may *Stower* from *Stowerbridge* ſupply the Market being made after another nature and below the mouth of that: *Severne* is much deeper.

3. It cannot be in the power of the Undertakers to wrong the Country as the *Shropſhire* men by inhanching the price of Coales, becauſe the Coale-mynes are not theirs, and it will be their advantage to get them cheap, for if they do not afford them cheaper then the Country can have them by Land-carriage, the Country will not buy of them.

4. The *Shropſhire* works cannot be deſtroyed by making theſe Rivers navigable, for Wood grows ſo ſcarce in thoſe Parts, and Coales ſo uſefull, that there will be Imployment enough for both; Beſides, admitting it were not ſo, yet they cannot all be deſtroyed, becauſe there are 16. works in all that ſerve the River, and but 4. of them have any Engines in, and thoſe which have are not of that vaſt charge they pretend.

5. It will be advantagious to the Bardge-men and the Myners, for that there will be more work for them both.

6. It cannot hinder or prejudice the Trading between *Briſtol* and *Shrewsbury* and *Welſhpoole*, becauſe the Barges which are imployed in that Work may ſtill continue it, and for the Coale-boats they neither went ſo high as *Shrewsbury* nor low as *Briſtol*.

7. The Mills upon the ſtreames are advantagious to the Navigation, and ſo will that be to the Mills, for that the ſtreame in ſome places muſt be made wider in other places, ſo that each Mill will have more water then formerly, beſides both for the Millers and Undertakers there will be a ſtock of water provided in the Back ſtreams, to be uſed upon any Emergency: And as for the Fulling Mills, to ſatisfie the Clothyers Importunity, they agreed to the Proviſoe in the Act.